

1 1. In a computer system configured to be capable of receiving presentable
2 content, a method of detecting tampering of the computer system, the method comprising
3 the following:

4 a specific act of booting up the computer system;

5 a specific act of monitoring a signal sequence that occurs internal to the
6 computer system during the specific act of booting up the computer system;

7 a specific act of calculating a boot signature that is a function of the signal
8 sequence;

9 a specific act of comparing the calculated boot signature to an expected boot
10 signature that represents no tampering to the computer system; and

11 a specific act of determining that tampering has not occurred if the
12 calculated boot signature is the same as the expected boot signature.

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14 2. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the computer system
15 includes a processing device and a memory device, the specific act of monitoring a signal
16 sequence that occurs internal to the computer system during the specific act of booting up
17 the computer system comprising the following:

18 a specific act of monitoring a signal sequence that occurs on a bus
19 connecting the processing device to the memory device during the specific act of
20 booting up the computer system.

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22 3. A method in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising the following:

23 a specific act of enabling presentable content to be presented if it is
24 determined that tampering has not occurred.

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2 4. A method in accordance with Claim 3, wherein the presentable content is
3 encrypted presentable content, wherein the specific act of enabling presentable content to
4 be presented comprises the following:

5 activating a decrypter that receives the encrypted presentable content .
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7 5. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the specific act of
8 monitoring a signal sequence is performed by a boot signature checker circuit that is
9 integrated with the decrypter.
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11 6. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the specific act of activating
12 a decrypter comprises the following:

13 a specific act of providing the calculated boot signature directly to the
14 decrypter, wherein the decrypter is configured to accept the expected boot signature
15 as a key string needed to activate the decrypter.
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17 7. A method in accordance with Claim 4, wherein the specific act of activating
18 a decrypter comprises the following:

19 a specific act of providing the calculated boot signature to the decrypter;
20 and

21 a specific act of the decrypter obtaining a key string needed to be activated
22 if the calculated boot signature matched the expected boot signature.
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1 8. A method in accordance with Claim 7, wherein the specific act of the
2 decrypter obtain a key string comprises the following:

3 a specific act of the decrypter obtaining the key string from the memory
4 device.

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6 9. A method in accordance with Claim 1, further comprising the following:

7 a specific act of determining that tampering has occurred if the calculated
8 boot signature is different than the expected boot signature.

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10 10. A method in accordance with Claim 9, further comprising the following:

11 a specific act of blocking the presentation of the presentable content if it is
12 determined that tampering has occurred.

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14 11. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
15 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

16 a specific act of deactivating an decrypter that receives the presentable
17 content.

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19 12. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
20 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

21 a specific act of disabling a demodulator such that the demodulator does not
22 demodulate the presentable content.

1 13. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
2 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

3 a specific act of disabling a tuner such that the tuner does not tune to the
4 presentable content.

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6 14. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
7 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

8 disabling a central processing unit clock.

9
10 15. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
11 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

12 disabling a demultiplexor such that audio, video or other data cannot be
13 extracted from the presentable content.

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15 16. A method in accordance with Claim 10, wherein the specific act of blocking
16 the presentation of the presentable content comprises the following:

17 disabling a network interface device used by the computer system to
18 interface with a network.

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20 17. A method in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the specific act of
21 calculating a boot signature that is a function of the signal sequence comprises the
22 following:

23 calculating the boot signature by applying a polynomial expression to the
24 signal sequence.

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1 18. In a computer system configured to be capable of capable of receiving
2 presentable, a method of detecting tampering of the computer system, the method
3 comprising the following:

4 a specific act of booting up the computer system;

5 a step for calculating a boot signature that is a function of a signal sequence
6 experienced internal to the computer system during the specific act of booting; and

7 a step for determining whether the calculated boot signature is indicative of
8 the computer system being tampered with.
9

10 19. A method in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the step for producing a
11 boot signature is performed by a boot signature checker that is coupled to the bus.
12

13 20. A method in accordance with Claim 18, wherein the step for calculating a
14 boot signature comprises the following:

15 a specific act of monitoring the signal sequence during the specific act of
16 booting up the computer system; and

17 a specific act of calculating the boot signature as a function of the signal
18 sequence monitored during the specific act of monitoring.
19

20 21. A method in accordance with Claim 20, wherein the computer system
21 includes a processing device and a memory device, the specific act of monitoring the
22 signal sequence comprising the following:
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1 a specific act of a boot signature checker monitoring a local bus between the
2 processing device and the memory device to determine a signal sequence that
3 occurs on the local bus during the specific act of booting up the computer system.
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5 22. A method in accordance with Claim 18, further comprising:
6 a step for acting on the determination of whether the calculated boot signature is
7 indicative of the computer system being tampered with.
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9 23. A method in accordance with Claim 22, wherein the step for acting on the
10 determination comprises the following:

11 a specific act of activating a decrypter so as to enable the decrypter to
12 decrypt the presentable content.
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14 24. A method in accordance with Claim 23, wherein the specific act of
15 activating a decrypter comprises the following:

16 a specific act of providing the calculated boot signature directly to the
17 decrypter, wherein the decrypter is configured to accept an expected boot signature
18 as a key string needed to activate the decrypter.
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1 25. A computer system capable of receiving presentable content, wherein the
2 computer system comprises:

- 3 a processing device;
- 4 a memory device;
- 5 a bus coupled to the processing device and the memory device;
- 6 a decrypter configured to decrypt encrypted content when activated;
- 7 a boot signature checker that is coupled to the bus so as to be able to read a
8 signal sequence asserted on the local bus during booting of the receiver,
- 9 wherein the boot signature checker is configured to calculate a boot
10 signature that is a function of the signal sequence.

11

12 26. A computer system in accordance with Claim 25, wherein the boot
13 signature checker is directly coupled to the bus.

14

15 27. A computer system in accordance with Claim 25, wherein the boot
16 signature checker is coupled to the decrypter so as to provide the boot signature to the
17 decrypter.

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19 28. A computer system in accordance with Claim 25, wherein the boot
20 signature checker and the decrypter are integrated within a single physical device.

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1 29. A computer system capable of decrypting encrypted content, wherein the
2 receiver comprises:

3 a processing device;
4 a memory device;
5 a bus coupled to the processing device and the memory device;
6 a decrypter configured to decrypt encrypted content when activated; and
7 means for calculating a boot signature that is a function of the signal
8 sequence experienced internal to the computer system during booting up of the
9 computer system.
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11 30. A computer system in accordance with Claim 29, wherein the means for
12 calculating a boot signature comprises the following:

13 a processing device;
14 a memory device;
15 a bus coupled to the processing device and to the memory device; and
16 a boot signature checker that is coupled to the bus so as to be able to
17 monitor the bus for signal sequences.
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19 31. A computer system in accordance with Claim 30, further comprising the
20 following:

21 a decrypter; and
22 a dedicated connection connecting the boot signature checker with the
23 decrypter.
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1 32. A conditional access device in accordance with Claim 30, wherein the boot
2 signature checker, the dedicated connection, and the decrypter are integrated within a
3 single physical device.
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